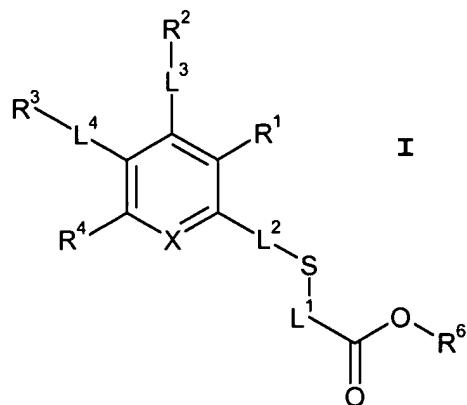


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application: **(AS ON AMENDED SHEET(S) ANNEXED TO IPRP)**

1. (currently amended) A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by inhibition of glyoxalase I, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein

$X$  is N or CH;

$R^1$  is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $-NH_2$ ; or  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $-NH_2$ ; or -OR, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub> or -SR wherein R is  $C_{1-4}$  alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or  $-NH_2$ ;

$R^2$  is H,  $CF_3$ ; or optionally substituted  $C_{5-6}$  aryl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_{5-7}$  heterocyclyl or together with  $R^3$  an optionally substituted  $C_{3-4}$  alkylene group wherein  $L^3$  and  $L^4$  are

single bonds thus forming a C<sub>5-6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached;

R<sup>3</sup> is H; or optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocycl or together with R<sup>2</sup> an optionally substituted C<sub>3-4</sub> alkylene group wherein L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are single bonds thus forming a C<sub>5-6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached;

R<sup>4</sup> is H; or optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl or C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocycl;

R<sup>6</sup> is selected from H or optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl and C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl;

L<sup>1</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene or -L<sup>5</sup>N(R<sup>5</sup>)L<sup>6</sup>-, or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene substituted by either C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl or C<sub>5-7</sub> aryl, wherein L<sup>5</sup> and L<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, and R<sup>5</sup> is H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl; and further wherein L<sup>1</sup> may be unsubstituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene when X is N;

L<sup>2</sup> is a single bond; or optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene or -L<sup>7</sup>C(=O)L<sup>8</sup>-, wherein L<sup>7</sup> and L<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and a single bond; and

L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -L<sup>9</sup>YN(OH)C(=O)L<sup>10</sup>- and -L<sup>9</sup>C(=O)N(OH)YL<sup>10</sup>-, wherein L<sup>9</sup> and L<sup>10</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; ~~or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof for use in a method of therapy.~~

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is chosen from the group consisting of H and cyano.
3. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H or C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl.
4. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L<sup>1</sup> is chosen from the group consisting of phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-phenylene- and -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)NH-phenylene-.
5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L<sup>2</sup> is a single bond or -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>-.
6. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein L<sup>3</sup> is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, -L<sup>9</sup>YN(OH)C(=O)L<sup>10</sup>- and -L<sup>9</sup>C(=O)N(OH)YL<sup>10</sup>-, wherein L<sup>9</sup> and L<sup>10</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.
7. (original) A compound according to claim 6 wherein L<sup>3</sup> is a single bond.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein  $L^4$  is chosen from the group consisting of a single bond, –  $L^9YN(OH)C(=O)L^{10}-$  and  $-L^9C(=O)N(OH)YL^{10}-$ , wherein  $L^9$  and  $L^{10}$  are independently selected from optionally substituted  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene,  $C_{5-6}$  arylene,  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene- $C_{5-6}$  arylene and a single bond, and wherein Y is NH or a single bond.

9. (original) A compound according to claim 8 wherein  $L^4$  is selected from the group consisting of  $-CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$ , -phenylene- $CH_2N(OH)C(=O)-$ , -phenylene- $NHN(OH)C(=O)-$  and  $-CH_2C(=O)N(OH)-$ .

10. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 wherein X is CH.

11. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are H.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein two of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are H.

13. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are all H.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is

optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl or C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl or C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted phenyl or C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl or cyclopentyl.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein L<sup>1</sup> is phenylene or –CH(Ph)-.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 10 wherein one of L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> is a single bond.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 19 wherein L<sup>3</sup> is a single bond.

21. (currently amended) A compound according to any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 9 wherein X is N.

22. (original) A compound according to claim 21 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is selected from optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl and C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl.

23. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 or 22 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is cyano or hydroxamic acid.

24. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 21 or 22 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl, CF<sub>3</sub> and, together with R<sup>3</sup>, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are single bonds thus forming a C<sub>6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached.

25. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl or C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl.

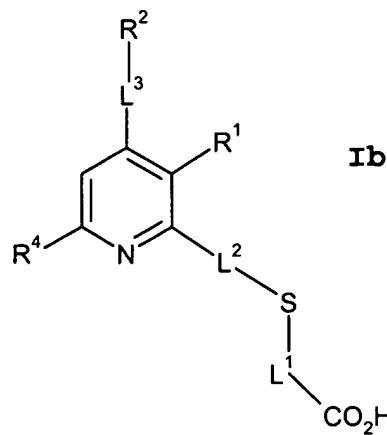
26. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from optionally substituted phenyl or thiophenyl.

27. (original) A compound according to claim 24 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is selected from the group consisting of thiophenyl, phenyl, p-chlorophenyl, p-methoxyphenyl, o-methoxyphenyl and p-fluorophenyl.

28. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 24 to 26 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is a monosubstituted phenyl group with the substituent group being in the para position.

29. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 21 to 28 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is H or, together with R<sup>2</sup>, an optionally substituted butylene group wherein L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are single bonds thus forming a C<sub>6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached.

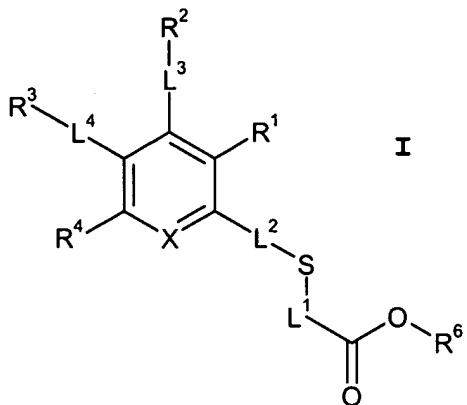
30. (original) A compound according to claim 29 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is H and L<sup>4</sup> is a single bond such that the compound is of formula Ib:



31. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claim[[s]] 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 32. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (original) A compound of formula I:



or a salt, solvate or chemically protected form thereof wherein

X is N or CH;

R<sup>1</sup> is H, cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>; or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>; or -OR, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub> or -SR wherein R is C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl optionally substituted by cyano, halo, hydroxy, hydroxamic acid, sulfhydryl or -NH<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>2</sup> is H, CF<sub>3</sub>; or optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl or together with R<sup>3</sup> an optionally substituted C<sub>3-4</sub> alkylene group wherein L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are single bonds thus forming a C<sub>5-6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached;

R<sup>3</sup> is H; or optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl, C<sub>3-7</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclyl or together with R<sup>2</sup> an optionally substituted C<sub>3-4</sub> alkylene group wherein L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are

single bonds thus forming a C<sub>5-6</sub> ring fused with the aromatic ring to which L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are attached;

R<sup>4</sup> is H; or optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl or C<sub>5-7</sub> heterocyclil;

R<sup>6</sup> is selected from H or optionally substituted C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl, C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl and C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl;

L<sup>1</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene or -L<sup>5</sup>N(R<sup>5</sup>)L<sup>6</sup>-, wherein L<sup>5</sup> and L<sup>6</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, and R<sup>5</sup> is H or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl;

L<sup>2</sup> is a single bond; or optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene or -L<sup>7</sup>C(=O)L<sup>8</sup>-, wherein L<sup>7</sup> and L<sup>8</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene and a single bond; and

L<sup>3</sup> and L<sup>4</sup> are independently selected from a single bond, optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, -L<sup>9</sup>YN(OH)C(=O)L<sup>10</sup>- and -L<sup>9</sup>C(=O)N(OH)YL<sup>10</sup>-, wherein L<sup>9</sup> and L<sup>10</sup> are independently selected from optionally substituted C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene, C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene, C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylene-C<sub>5-6</sub> arylene and a single bond, wherein Y is NH or a single bond; and wherein the compound contains at least one -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

35. 35. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein at least one of R<sup>1</sup>, L<sup>3</sup> or L<sup>4</sup> comprises a -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

36. (original) A compound according to claim 34 wherein L<sup>4</sup> comprises a -C(=O)N(OH)- group.

37. (Currently Amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~36~~ wherein  $L^4$  is a  $L^9-C(=O)N(OH)-$  group.

38. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein  $L^9$  is selected from  $C_{1-4}$  alkylene and  $C_{5-6}$  arylene.

39. (original) A compound according to claim 37 wherein  $L^9$  is methylene or phenylene.

40. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~39~~ wherein  $X$  is  $CH$ .

41. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~40~~ wherein at least one of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  is  $H$ .

42. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~40~~ wherein at least two of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are  $H$ .

43. 43. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~40~~ wherein all of  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$  and  $R^4$  are  $H$ .

44. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to ~~43~~  
wherein R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted C<sub>5-6</sub> aryl.

45. (original) A compound according to claim 44 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is phenyl.

46. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to  
45 wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H or C<sub>1-7</sub> alkyl.

47. (original) A compound according to claim 46 wherein R<sup>6</sup> is H or C<sub>1-3</sub> alkyl.

48. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to  
47 wherein L<sup>1</sup> is phenylene, -CH(Ph)-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-phenylene- or -CH<sub>2</sub>C(=O)NH-phenylene-.

49. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to  
48 wherein L<sup>2</sup> is a single bond or -C(=O)CH<sub>2</sub>-.

50. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 34 to  
49 wherein L<sup>3</sup> is a single bond.